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Reaminer   George C Yeung   1761		Application No.	Applicant(s)	<del></del>
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			Primary Examiner	

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## **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

In order to correct an obvious informality, pursuant to M.P.E.P. 1302.04, the following change has been made by the Examiner:

In the amended claim 1, line 16, the word -- incoming -- has been inserted after "each" (note that the change in the amended claim 1, line 16, is for the purpose of providing a proper antecedent basis for "said incoming bar-like dough piece" as recited in claim1, last line).

## **Reasons for Allowance**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not show or suggest the present apparatus and method for bending a bar-like dough piece along its length into a predetermined form. The apparatus comprises conveying means for continuously conveying bar-like dough pieces thereon in traveling direction that is substantially orthogonal to a length of each bar-like dough piece, means for determining a plurality of actual positions to be bent on the length of each bar-like dough piece; means for substituting said determined actual positions with predetermined positions, and bending means for bending each incoming bar-like dough piece at said predetermined positions that are symmetrical or asymmetrical with respect to the center of said length of said incoming bar-like dough piece into a predetermined form as set forth in claim 1. The method comprises the steps of (a) continuously conveying bar-like dough pieces in a traveling direction that is substantially orthogonal to a length of each bar-like dough piece, (b) determining a plurality of actual positions to

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be bent on the length of each bar-like dough piece, (c) substituting said determined actual positions with predetermined positions, and (d) bending said bar-like dough piece at said predetermined positions that are symmetrical or asymmetrical with respect to the center of said length of said bar-like dough piece into a predetermined form as set forth in claim 18.

G. Yeung/af September 16, 2004

> GEORGE C.YEUNG PRIMARY EXAMINER

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